

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 04275 240218Z

65

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /085 W

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R 230425Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 664

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION UN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, BX, UK, UN

SUBJ: BRUNEI ISSUE AT UNITED NATIONS

REF: KL 3479 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: MALAYSIAN PRESS HAS REPORTED APPEAL BY BRUNEI PEOPLE'S PARTY (BPP) TO UN COMMITTEE OF 24 ON DECOLONIZATION, TOGETHER WITH ALLEGED STATEMENT BY AUSTRALIAN DELEGATE THAT TRIPARTITE TALKS AMONG UK, BRUNEI GOVT AND BPP SHOULD BE CONVENED. BRITISH ARE SEEKING CLARIFICATION FROM AUSTRALIANS, BUT OTHERWISE THEY DO NOT APPEAR TO BE UNHAPPY WITH RESULTS OF LAST WEEK'S COMMITTEE OF 24 MEETING ON BRUNEI. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL PAPERS JUL 16 REPORTED THAT BPP DELEGATION LED BY PARTY
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KUALA 04275 240218Z

PRESIDENT A.M. AZAHARI APPEARED BEFORE COMMITTEE OF 24

SUBCOMMITTEE II TO URGE "FULL INDEPENDENCE" FOR BRUNEI. PRESS REPORTS SAID BPP PRESENTED 20-PAGE DOCUMENT TO SUBCOMMITTEE, CONTAINING POINTS MADE IN BPP MANIFESTO (REFTEL) AND ASKING FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF UNGA RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) OF DEC. 14, 1960. BPP ALSO APPARENTLY HIT OUT AT CONTINUED PRESENCE OF GURKHA TROOPS IN BRUNEI (WHICH BRUNEI GOVT PAYS FOR) AND ALLEGED THAT BRUNEI IS "FOREIGN BASE" OF U.K. IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. ON JUL 20, K.L. DAILY "NEW STRaits TIMES" (NST) AND OTHER PAPERS REPORTED THAT AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON SUBCOMMITTEE, A. DUNCAN CAMPBELL, ENDORSED BPP'S CALL FOR TRIPARTITE TALKS ON BRUNEI INDEPENDENCE. ACCORDING NST, CAMPBELL ALSO SAID: "BRITAIN DOES NOT REALLY HAVE THE POWER TO COMPEL THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE EXISTING REGIME," IMPLYING THAT BPP CRITICISM SHOULD NOT BE LEVELLED SOLELY AT U.K. IN SAME ARTICLE, NST NOTED BPP HAS OBTAINED SUPPORT OF AAPSO (KL 3898) AND PETITIONED COMMONWEALTH PRIME MIISTERS' CONFERENCE IN JAMAICA IN APRIL.

3. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION OFFICER (BOLDT) TOLD US JUL 21 THAT ARABS AND SEVERAL RADICAL LDC'S SUPPORTED BPP IN SUBCOMMITTEE SESSION, BUT AUSTRALIANS EARLIER HAD PROMISED TO TAKE CONSTRUCTIVE VIEW. IN BELIEF THAT AUSTRALIAN DELEGATE'S REMARKS TO SUBCOMMITTEE SEEMINGLY AGREEING WITH BPP STAND WERE INCORRECT OR TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT, BOLDT HAS ASKED AUSTRALIANS HERE FOR CLARIFICATION OF CAMPBELL'S STATEMENT. ACCORDING TO BOLDT, MALAYSIANS DID NOT APPEAR BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE BUT FACT GOM DOCUMENTED BPP DELEGATION FOR TRAVEL TO NEW YORK (KL 3801 AND RELATED REPORTS) IS CLEAR INDICATION TO OTHERS THAT IT SUPPORTS "INDEPENDENCE" MOVEMENT.

4. BOLDT ALSO SAID BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, SIR ERIC NORRIS, MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY-GENERAL TAN SRI ZAITON ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO TO URGE GOM MODERATION IN SUPPORTING BPP CAUSE AND TO WARN THAT RADICAL ARAB STATES SHOULD NOT GET INVOLVED IN BRUNEI AFFAIRS. NORRIS SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO TRAINING OF BPP CADRES BY LIBYA WHICH, BOLDT COMMENTED, WAS ARRANGED BY GOM EXTERNAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION (MEIO). ADDITIONALLY, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUALA 04275 240218Z

NORRIS ASKED THAT GOM NOT STIMULATE BRUNEI ISSUE AS IT WOULD BE FURTHER UNSETTLING DEVELOPMENT IN SEASIAN AFFAIRS. BOLDT CONTINUED THAT HMG ALSO APPROACHED INDONESIANS IN JAKARTA WITH REQUEST THAT BRUNEI ISSUE BE PLAYED DOWN IN UN. INDONESIANS REPLIED THAT THEY DID NOT WANT BRUNEI ISSUE TO GET OUT OF HAND BECAUSE EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF COLONIALISM IN SEASIA WOULD ALSO THROW SPOTLIGHT ON PORTUGUESE TIMOR, A DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD

NOT BE IN GOI'S INTEREST. CURIOUSLY, INDONESIANS REPORTEDLY TOOK RELAXED ATTITUDE TOWARD INTERNATIONAL LOBBYING ACTIVITIES OF AZAHARI AND OTHER BPP LEADERS, SAYING AZAHARI STILL RESIDES IN INDONESIA (HE HAS IN FACT BEEN IN MALAYSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES FOR PAST SEVERAL MONTHS).

5. REGARDING EVOLUTION OF BRUNEI ISSUE IN UN, BOLDT SAID HMG WILL NOT PRESENT ITS CASE TO COMMITTEE OF 24 OR SUBCOMMITTEE BUT WILL PROBABLY "EXPLAIN SITUATION" IN LETTER TO UNSYG AT SOME POINT. HMG HOPES, OF COURSE, THAT ISSUE WILL NOT BE PURSUED IN UNGA, ALTHOUGH BRITISH PERMREP IN NEW YORK HAS SAID BRUNEI MAY COME UP IN FOURTH COMMITTEE.

6. COMMENT: AS NOTED IN REFTEL AND OTHER EMBASSY REPORTS, BRITISH ARE CLEARLY "AT SEA" IN DEALING WITH BRUNEI ISSUE, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THEY ARE UNABLE TO INFLUENCE SULTAN AND HIS FATHER (THE REAL POWER BEHIND THRONE) TO LIBERALIZE BRUNEI'S POLITICAL SYSTEM AND TO TERMINATE PROTECTORATE STATUS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE USUN'S VIEWS AS TO LIKELY EVOLUTION OF BRUNEI ISSUE IN UN AND ANY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS THAT WE MAY PASS ALONG TO BRITISH HERE.

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